

# THE JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR.

NO. 2.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, JANUARY 15, 1866.

VOL. I.

## Poetry.

(For the Juvenile Instructor.)  
TO CHILDREN.

Children, obey your parents  
And give them honor due,  
Is God's command, with promise  
Of life and blessings too.

The fleeting hours of childhood  
And youth, are golden hours,  
In which to lay foundations  
For manhood's noble powers.

In them we form the habits  
Which mark our future years,  
Which fill the heart with gladness,  
Or wet the cheek with tears.

Seek, while the scenes of childhood  
And youth, are moving on,  
To store your minds with wisdom,  
And cherish reason's dawn.

Shun every evil practice,  
And set your standard high;  
You certainly will reach it  
If you don't cease to try.

In right, be energetic,  
And never yield to wrong;  
The right is sure to triumph,  
Although prevented long.

The good, the wise and noble,  
Be sure to emulate:  
Be wisely great in goodness,  
And you'll be truly great.

E. R. SNOW.

G. S. L. City, Jan., 1866.

## Biography.

JOSEPH SMITH, THE PROPHET.

(CONTINUED.)

We have described to you, in the previous number of the *INSTRUCTOR*, the course Joseph Smith took to obtain knowledge. The Apostle James had said: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." Joseph believed his words and, in child-like simplicity, had asked, and the Lord had answered his prayer. He had the privilege of learning from heavenly Beings that which he had sought in vain to obtain from man.

As we have told you, the light which surrounded those holy Beings was most beautiful and brilliant. As it descended from the heavens and came near the tops of the trees where Joseph was praying the whole grove was lit up in a most glorious manner. The light was so very bright that he expected it would burn the leaves and limbs of the trees when it touched them; but when he saw that they were not burned by it, he felt no fear about it hurting him. When it rested upon him, and he was surrounded by it, his sensations were very peculiar; but very pleasing and joyous. It was when the light rested upon him that he saw the heavenly personages. They exactly resembled each other in their features and appearance.

As soon as Joseph was able to speak, he asked the Personages, who stood above him in the light, which of all the sects was right and which he should join. It was his desire to obtain knowledge respecting this important matter that prompted him to go out alone and pray to God. He fully expected there was one Church on the earth which was true and acknowledged by the Lord. But he was told that he must join none of them, for they were all wrong; and the Personage who talked to him said that all their creeds, or systems of religion, were an abomination in his sight, and the preachers of those doctrines were all corrupt, "they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrines the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof." He again commanded him not to join with any of these churches, and he was promised that the true doctrine—the everlasting gospel—should be made known to him at some future time. Many other things were told him and the vision was withdrawn.

Every one of our young readers can think how delighted Joseph must have been at receiving this glorious and precious visit from these holy Beings. He had no longer to look here and there for the truth and the true people of God. Knowledge had been given him which he could depend upon; and he no doubt felt that it would be a pleasure to him to tell what the Lord had revealed to him to all the world, if they would listen to him. But the world would neither listen to nor believe him.

This latter statement may appear strange to you, children. You cannot, perhaps, understand why any person would not be glad to hear such truths as Joseph could tell them. After so many generations had passed away without a voice from heaven being heard, and without any person being able to say: "Thus, saith the Lord," you would probably think that men would be glad to hear that the Lord had spoken, and would crowd around Joseph with open ears to hear what the Lord had said.

Eli was a very old man, and a High Priest who had been acknowledged by the Lord, and Samuel was a very young boy, yet when God spoke to Samuel, and he told Eli what the Lord had said, Eli listened to him with kindness and respect. But the people did not do so with Joseph. They did not have that regard for God and His word that Eli, with all his faults, had. Truly had the Lord said to Joseph that they were corrupt, and that while they drew near to him with their lips, their hearts were far from him. Joseph soon proved this to his satisfaction.

Some few days after he had this vision he happened to be in company with one of those preachers who had been so very active in the religious excitement which we alluded to in the first number of the *INSTRUCTOR*. This preacher belonged to a sect called Methodists. Their conversation turned upon the subject of religion, and Joseph told him about the vision which he had received.

Now, this man, though he preached to everybody about God, and professed to be His servant, never had seen Him or heard Him speak, neither had he ever known any person who had ever seen Him or heard Him speak. The last men who had

known God, had been killed hundreds of years before he was born, by the people who then lived, because they declared God's word, which made the wicked angry. All that he knew, therefore, about God, he learned from the Bible, which was written by men who had known Him.

Instead of being thankful to learn that God had once more spoken to man, this preacher treated Joseph's description of his vision with contempt. He said that it was all of the devil, and that there was no such thing as visions or revelations at that time; they had all ceased since the Apostles of Jesus had passed away, and there would never be any more of them.

Boys, you can imagine how disappointed Joseph was at hearing this language from a man who professed to have such love for God. It was a fact that he had had a vision, and he knew it, and all the preachers in the world could not make it otherwise. Though all the world should oppose him, and deny that he had seen anything, Joseph knew that he had both seen a light and heard a voice speaking to him. What could he do? He could not believe this preacher when he said that all he had told him was of the devil, and that there never would be any more visions or revelations!

(For the Juvenile Instructor.)

## LITTLE GEORGE.

A TRUE STORY.



LITTLE George had no father to buy him new clothes and bread and butter and toys to play with, for his father died in a far-off, distant land, when he was very young, so he had to trust to kind strangers to give him bread, when he was hungry, and old clothes to wear.

LITTLE George had no home to rest in when he was tired of playing; he had no little chair to sit in, no good fire to sit by, and no nice little crib or bed to sleep in; but he had to lie down by the side of a wall, or by the side of a house to sleep and rest, and trust to be fed and clothed by Him who feeds the birds and fishes and clothes the flowers of the field.

While the sun shone, and everything was warm and bright, little George was cheerful and happy, and found plenty of boys and girls to play with. Many of them were kind to him, and would let him play with their toys, and give him pieces of bread and pie to eat. Sometimes bad boys would beat him, and they were not afraid to do so, for he had no father to tell and no brothers to take his part.

When wicked boys would thus abuse him, he would go away by himself and cry for a long time, and wish that he were dead; and he would try to pray to God in his trouble, for his mother taught



him, when he was a very little boy, to pray, and to believe that whatever he asked God for would be given to him; and so he would pray that God would forgive those bad boys, and then he would feel better and go to his play again, for he could not remember any wrongs done to him only for a short time.

When night came and all his playmates were gone to their homes, little George would sit under a window and cry, and wish that he had a home to go to, and kind good friends to give him bread and milk to his supper, and wash his face and comb his hair and put him into a nice, clean bed to sleep. Sometimes strangers would take him into their kitchens, and give him some crusts of bread to eat and let him sit by the fire or lie on the floor all night; then he was glad, and thankful to God, whom his mother had taught him to thank for everything. Sometimes he would have to crawl into an out-house and cuddle up in a corner all alone, and then he would cry himself to sleep; but when he awoke in the morning, and all was light and gay, he forgot his troubles and warmed himself in the sunshine.

One morning he took off his clothes to bathe in a shallow place in a canal, with some other boys; and they proved to be bad boys, for they ran away with all his clothes, and left him in the water. This was a sore trial for little George, for he had to remain naked until late in the afternoon, when a kind lady found him crying behind a wall, where he had been nearly all day without anything to eat, and she brought him some clothing and a large piece of bread and butter.

This had been an unlucky day for little George, and night coming on he felt very lonely and wished that he were in heaven, and thought that it would not be wrong for him to drown himself in the canal, and then he would not again have his clothes stolen away from him by bad boys. He got on to the edge of a canal boat, where the water was deep, to throw himself into the water, and was just going to bid goodbye to the little sparrows that were chirping near him, when he saw that he had not eaten all his bread and butter which the lady had given him, so he sat down to eat it before he jumped into the water to drown himself; but by the time he had done eating his bread and butter he felt much better, and prayed that he might live to be a man, and find good and kind friends in a coming day to love him.

So he did not drown himself but lived and found the good and loving friends his little heart pined for.

There are many thousands of little boys and girls in the big cities of the world that are as destitute of friends and comfort as little George was. How is it with you? Have you a kind father, a good mother, a generous uncle, a gentle aunt, a loving friend to provide for you a home to live in, a bed to sleep upon, clothing to wear and food to eat? Ought you not to love them very much and do their bidding without a cross thought, or angry word? Have you school-teachers to teach you how to read and write, and good ministers of the truth to show you the way to heaven? Then be thankful to God, my little children; for all your good and kind friends, and for your comfortable and happy homes.

You will hear more about little George in the future.

UNCLE GEORGE.

A JOLLY LIFE.—Insects generally must lead a truly jovial life. Think what it must be to lodge in a life! Imagine a palace of ivory or pearl, with a pillar of silver and capitals of gold, all inhaling such a perfume as never arose from human censer. Fancy, again, the fun of tucking yourself up for the night in the folds of a rose, rocked to sleep by the gentle sigh of the summer air, nothing to do when you awake but to wash yourself in a dew-drop, and fall to and eat your bedclothes.

THE wonders of the mighty Ocean are many and various. They who traverse it in great ships see strange sights and many evidences of the greatness and wisdom of God. The varieties of fish which swarm in the rivers, lakes, seas and oceans are not among the least wonderful and instructive things that are to be found in the water. Fishes are the same to the sea and ocean that animals are to the land.

They have a world of their own in which they live and move. Some of them are very small, some very pretty, some harmless, some good to be eaten by man, some are exceedingly large, and some are very destructive—terrible monsters indeed.

Our illustration represents one of those terrible fishes. It is of the horned ray species, more commonly known as Sea Devils or Ocean Vampires. Some of these fish grow to be an enormous size—thirty or forty feet in length, and very weighty. It is said they have been found so large as to require seven yoke of oxen to draw one of them ashore. Many anecdotes are related of the strength of this fish. In the *Natural History of the State of New York* the statement is made, that it has been known "to seize the cable of a small vessel at anchor and draw the vessel several miles with great velocity."

We hope this illustration and brief sketch will incite our young readers to seek after knowledge concerning the seas and oceans and their inhabitants, as well as other branches of study. As they increase in knowledge they will see in all the hand of the All-wise Creator made manifest.

(For the Juvenile Instructor.)

#### WHO ARE THE INDIANS?

AFTER Lehi had enjoyed this glorious vision, and had seen and heard the great and wonderful things which were manifested unto him in it, he went about among his friends, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem generally, telling them what the Lord had made known unto him, and that, unless they repented of all their wickedness and humbled themselves as little children before God, their beautiful city would be destroyed and themselves, with their King, their wives and their children, would be taken captives by the King of Babylon. But, instead of thanking him for his kind warning, the Jews hated him and sought to kill him, as they had done all the prophets and good men who lived before him.

Our youthful readers will, very likely, wonder why the Jews should wish to kill Lehi, when he had done them no harm, but, on the contrary, had endeavored to do them good, by telling them of the dreadful miseries and calamities that awaited them, and how they might escape them. The reason was that the Jews, both men and women, had become very wicked, and they did not like any one to tell them about or reprove them on account of their sins. The Jews had no disposition to do right and forsake their sins, so they became angry at and hated any one who told them about their secret murders, their whoredoms, adulteries, robberies, oppression, lyings and hypocrisy. Just as some naughty boys and girls feel angry sometimes at anybody who tells them of their faults.

#### THE SEA DEVIL.



The Lord, seeing that the Jews would kill Lehi if he remained among them, warned him, in a dream, to take his family and leave Jerusalem and travel into

the wilderness—that is, an uninhabited country—in the direction that the Lord should tell him. This warning Lehi promptly obeyed. Leaving his house, with most of his furniture and effects, together with all his gold and silver that he did not spend for his traveling outfit, and he was possessed of a large amount of money and other property—he took his family with him and traveled towards the east side of the Red Sea.

Lehi's family, when they left Jerusalem, consisted of himself and his wife Sariah, and their four sons, Laman, Lemuel, Nephi and Sam. Now Laman and Lemuel were wicked, and rebellious against their father, and did not believe that God had spoken to him and told him to leave Jerusalem; so they murmured at him for taking them away from their comfortable home and their riches, to die, as they thought, in the wilderness. But Nephi had always been an obedient, good boy, who loved his father, and prayed to God very often; so the Lord heard him, spoke to him and blessed him, and he grew up to be a wise, brave and good man, and was a great comfort and blessing to his father and mother. So, also, was Sam, the younger son. Lehi and Sariah had two other sons born to them after they left Jerusalem, who were named Jacob and Joseph; but these four were all they had at the time we are speaking of.

After Lehi and his family were camped in their tents by the Red Sea, he built an altar to the Lord and offered sacrifices to Him and thanked Him for taking care of them on their journey. While resting there, the Lord told Lehi to send his sons back to Jerusalem, to a man named Laban, who had a history of the Jews and a record of the sayings of the prophets who had lived among them from time to time, and also the names of Lehi's forefathers, back to the time of Joseph who was sold into Egypt by his brethren. All these writings were kept upon plates of brass which Laban had, and Lehi wished to have them so that his children and grandchildren might know the commandments of the Lord and keep them, and so become good and happy. These brass plates contained many things which we have in our Bibles,—such as what are called the Five Books of Moses, and the prophecies of Isaiah, portions of those of Jeremiah, and many others, and it was necessary that Lehi should have them; so he sent his sons back for them. Now Laman and Lemuel complained as much at having to go back to Jerusalem as they did at having to leave it; but they finally concluded they would go with their brothers Nephi and Sam, and try to get those sacred records.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)



## The Juvenile Instructor.

GEORGE Q. CANNON,.....EDITOR.

JANUARY 15, 1866.

## A YOUNG MISSIONARY.

We were at the house of a friend the other day when the conversation turned upon his son who is absent on a mission preaching the gospel. Our friend and his wife—the mother of the young missionary—spoke with pleasure and pride of their absent boy and of the cheerful and encouraging letters which he had written to them. They had recently met with some of the Elders who had just returned home from preaching in the same country where he was, and they brought them good reports about the faithfulness and zeal of their son.

We expressed the gladness which we felt upon hearing such good news; and added, that we should have been disappointed at hearing any other news than that, as we always thought he was a good boy.

"O, yes," said the mother, "W——was always an obedient boy to me, and I never have had any fear about him doing well on his mission."

"I never knew that boy," said his father, "to tell either his mother or me a falsehood; we never had any doubts about anything that he told us, for he always told us the truth, and he was very industrious and trustworthy in all the business which he had to attend to."

These parents felt a confidence in their son which they could not have had if he had been in the habit, when at home, of telling lies and trying to deceive them and his other friends. In listening to their remarks, we were struck with the hopeful views which they took of his future, and we thought of the words of Solomon: "A wise son maketh a glad father."

There is scarcely a little boy in this Territory who does not hope that, when he grows up, he may be thought worthy to go on a mission to preach the gospel. And we are sure that no boy, if he were sent as a missionary, would like to fail, and be sent home as unfit for such duty. This would be a disgrace which he and all his relatives and friends would feel very sorry to see come upon him.

Now, it is possible for every boy and girl to obtain a character for telling the truth and to behave themselves in such a manner that every person, who knows them, will love them. And a character for truthfulness and honesty is worth more than an immense pile of money or other things would be without it. Riches may take wings and fly away, or, in other words, they can be lost, and then what a wretched condition a person would be in who has a bad character! But if boys and girls have not many fine things, nor very good clothes, and are poor, yet have a good name for truthfulness, honesty and industry, every person who loves goodness will love them. If their clothes are not very good, that will make no difference in the feelings of the Saints towards them; they will look at their good qualities, not at their clothes; and if boys of this character should be called to go on missions, they will have the faith, prayers and confidence of all who know them, and these will be worth more to them than fine things. Boys and girls, work hard to obtain a character for truthfulness, virtue, honesty and industry, and this you will always find, throughout your lives, to be better than riches.

OUR TERMS.—THE JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR is published Semi-Monthly at THREE DOLLARS a year, invariably in advance.

Agents sending subscriber's names are held responsible for the amount, and are presumed to have the pay on hand, subject to order, when forwarding names. We hope that all will readily perceive the necessity of this, without deeming it too stringent, as the materials for this sheet have to be purchased abroad, with cash, and freighted here, the payments for which must be promptly made.

Wheat and other produce, when paid, will be received at market price in cash of the place where it is paid. Mr. Wm. H. Shearman, Logan, will act as General Agent for Cache County.

## Voices from Nature.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.

II.

COAL.

A venerable old lady has been requested to entertain us for a short time in the present paper—dear, mother Earth, who has of late opened the records of her former days to the admiration and instruction of mankind. I will not lead you to the coral isles of the far-off sea, nor into the interior of volcanoes, nor to the sand deserts of ancient Egypt, but to that pile of *Coal* lying in your cellar, to be burned in your stove, that you may feel warm in these cold winter days; for, you see, coal does something else besides heating a stove, or driving a steam engine, or producing the useful gas, by which whole cities are lighted up and the darkness of their nights turned almost into the brightness of day, it tells us also a great deal of the earth, before the present race of men lived upon it.

My young friends will sometimes find on a piece of coal the forms of leaves and wood; and there are many specimens in various scientific collections, on which the forms of plants have been preserved to a remarkable degree; but close examination has demonstrated the fact, that they all belong to one great class, no matter in what country the coal is found. Coal is formed of plants of a soft structure, like the fern, that had no visible flowers nor seeds, nor anything in common with our oak trees, beeches, firs, pines, etc. The color of the coal and its blackening qualities show that it must have been brought by heat into its present state, but that by some cause the heat was prevented from consuming it entirely and burning it into ashes.

Coal was not formed in one day, but it took, probably, thousands, perhaps millions of years to form a coal bed of the thickness of 5 or 6 feet, as it only consists of vegetable matter, consolidated by a pressure, that man with all his machines and engines cannot produce. How many generations of such loose and soft plants it must have taken to form such a coalbed! That period of our earth, in which those plants were most abundant of which the coal is chiefly composed, is called by geologists the Coal period.

A landscape in that period must have looked very different from any now upon the earth. If, instead of high and lofty mountains, there were only level, swampy plains, the grass, which grew upon those plains was from 10 to 15 feet high; and plants which now scarcely reach the size of sngarcane, grew as high as the tallest of our trees; and besides this, a tropical climate, without any apparent changes of the seasons, seems to have reigned all over the earth, favoring the uninterrupted growth of plants to marvellous heights. Just imagine for a moment, children, that you were going a May-walking in the time of the coal period. The grass nearly as high as our houses, and as thick and wide as boards; canes growing as tall as our biggest cottonwood trees. As beautiful as such a landscape might look in a picture, it certainly would have been no home for man, for the hot and unhealthy atmosphere was often subjected to such sudden and terrible changes, that our thunderstorms and hurricanes cannot be compared with them. The girls would have found no flowers to gather, no apples to eat; and none of our domestic animals, such as the horse, the ox, the sheep, the dog, etc., was known then; only ugly formed monsters, skeletons of which have occasionally been found, swam in the water, crept on the ground or chased through the air. The earth was not yet sufficiently developed to become the dwelling place of the crown of creation, the image of God—man.

Men of science have often traveled thousands of

miles to study the relics of an ancient nation, to discover some traces of its history, and to collect such remains of the past as great treasures in their museums. The hieroglyphics tell us of the old Pharaohs, the ruins of Nineveh and Babylon, of long lines of kings and warriors. But of a long period of our earth nothing can give us record but the coal; and when you take up a piece in your hand, remember that the plants composing it, adorned the earth, when none beheld their beauty, but the eye of Him who watches through the ages of eternity the never-ending changes of his creations.

KARL G. MAESER.

## Simple Science.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.

RAIN.

Our last article on Snow showed, that it was simply frozen vapor. When the vapors which form the clouds are condensed, or have become less in bulk while the quantity remains the same, they fall to the earth in drops of water, and are called rain.

Vapor is formed by water being heated until it expands and becomes lighter than the air, when it rises until it reaches a point above us where the air is no heavier than itself, and there it floats, and when visible is known as clouds. You can see heated water rising from a kettle on the stove, when the water in it is boiling, or about to boil. It is of a whitish color then, and is called steam; but is of that color because the cold air is condensing it, for vapor itself is colorless. When the sun shines out strong, the moisture that is in the earth rises in the form of vapor, though you often cannot see it. That is the reason why the earth dries so much quicker after rain has fallen on it, or when snow has melted, when the sun is strong, than when it does not shine out so powerfully. Sometimes you can see the roads and fields, when they are wet, apparently smoking as the moisture rises in the form of vapor. The rays of the sun and the warmth that is in the earth, heat the moisture, and it rises very fast, as vapor; but cold air near the earth condenses it slightly, and it becomes distinguishable to the naked eye. The water in lakes, ponds, rivers, sloughs and other places where it is collected in body, also throws off a part in the form of vapor, when heated by the sun's rays, which is returned again to the earth and spread over its surface as snow or rain, fertilizing it and making it fruitful. What a beautiful provision of nature it is to water the earth! How wisely the Lord has ordained everything for the good of His children!

When there is as much vapor in the air as it can contain, it is said to have reached the point of saturation; and when in that state, if it should be struck by a current of cold air, it would be condensed and become weightier than the atmosphere which was supporting it. Then it would fall to the earth in the form of rain. If the current of air which struck it was very cold, the drops would be frozen before they reached the ground, and then they would be hail, instead of rain. The reason why we have hail more frequently in the summer than in the winter is, that then the atmosphere is not generally so cold as to condense the vapor and form rain, and very cold currents of air are more frequent because of what is called rarefaction, or the heating of the air. These cold currents suddenly striking a rain cloud, form hail or frozen rain.

As the clouds are condensed, they separate into small particles, or drops which are perfectly round, each drop being attracted towards a common centre. When the clouds are very high, these drops unite in falling, and form larger drops; hence when rain-drops are very large the rain is not likely to



continue long, for the fact of the clouds being so high shows there is not a very large quantity of vapor in the atmosphere; and as the rain has been rapidly formed, the cause which produced it is likely to pass speedily away. On the contrary, if the rain-clouds are flying low, and the air becomes gradually cold, a "drizzling rain" begins to fall, when the drops are very small. This generally continues for some length of time, as the air is then very likely filled with vapor to the point of saturation.

In very cold countries there is little or no rain. The cold is so intense that it freezes the vapor too quickly to allow of its condensing enough to form rain, and then it falls as snow. That is the reason why it often snows in the mountains here while it is raining in the valleys; for the air is not so cold in the valleys as on the mountains.

The reason why a south wind, in these valleys, is generally said to blow up a storm is, that then the wind comes from a warmer climate than this is and brings a large quantity of moisture or vapor with it. Then when the wind changes and blows from a colder region, it either freezes the vapor causing snow, or condenses the vapor and causes rain.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]  
SKATING.



It is very beautiful, on a clear winter day or lovely moonlight night, to see a gay party of skaters on the slippery ice, some circling around with graceful sweep, others darting past with the speed of a race horse, or cutting letters, figures and devices, on the smooth surface, that appear marvelous.

If we examine a skate, the first impression is that it must be very difficult to stand upon them at all. This is found to be the case at the first trial; but a little perseverance soon overcomes the difficulty. The next thing is to move in the direction you wish, while your feet appear to have a strong inclination to take you in a direction you are positive you do not wish to go. The reason of this is, that a very slight leaning of the body will cause a motion in that direction. Suppose you are about to put on a pair of skates for the first time.—The first thing necessary, is to see that they are fastened very securely to your shoes, which should be laced tightly to support the ankles. To obtain a forward-motion on the ice, look in the direction you wish to go, for that action places your body in the position it should be; the toe of the skate must also be in the same line; the impetus is given by leaning the whole weight of the body on that foot, and at the same time pressing outward sharply on the ice, with the inner edge of the skate on the other foot, along its whole length, keeping also on the inner edge of the skate on which you glide forward, preserving at the same time a perfect balance. This motion, varied from right to left, or left to right, is all that is necessary. A little practice will enable any one to do this. Increased confidence will come with renewed attempts, and no boy or girl need be discouraged by the partial failure of their first or second attempt,—they should never forget that perfection in skating, as in everything else, is only to be attained by application and perseverance.

These are the simple rudiments of this pleasant and healthful recreation, which is practiced in nearly all countries where the weather in winter is cold enough to convert the surface of the water on the lakes and ponds into ice. What is called "fancy skating," will be acquired by experience. Our young readers must be very careful, however, not to venture on weak ice at any time, nor on ice where the water under it is so deep as to endanger their lives in case of an accidental tumble in; a ducking is bad enough without more serious consequences.

L.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]  
LIVE FOR SOMETHING.

THOUSANDS of men breathe, move and live—pass off the stage of life and are heard of no more. Why? They did no good in the world; none were blessed by them; none could point to them as their benefactors; not a line that they wrote, not a word that they spoke, not a good deed that they performed could be recalled, and so they perished from the memory of men. Of what value is such a life? Its possessor has suffered the golden days of his probation to pass by unimproved, and his light has gone out in darkness.

Children, you have life before you; do not squander it foolishly. Make up your minds while young to live for something. Understand that you have a mission given you, and be determined to fill it worthily and well. Recollect that you cannot be truly great unless you are truly good, and make it your constant study to do all the good you can. You may be young and not very widely known, but you can extend the circle of your acquaintance and influence by good deeds, and, wherever you go, you can carry an influence with you that will inspire others with good resolves and a determination to follow your example. Do this, and you will write your names on the hearts of your generation in letters that will never perish, and you will enter upon a career of ever-increasing happiness and glory.

#### TO OUR READERS.

WE owe an apology to our patrons for the non-appearance of the INSTRUCTOR at the stated time. We fully expected, when we issued the first number, to have our paper from California by the time we should need it for the second issue; but in this expectation we were disappointed. A delay occurred, which we found ourselves powerless to remedy. We hope to be able to avoid similar irregularities in future, and presume upon the indulgence of our friends to kindly overlook this want of punctuality and not permit it to detract from the interest which they have manifested in the success of our enterprise.

We shall furnish the back numbers as soon as possible, so that subscribers can receive the twenty-four numbers for the year's subscription.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY.

SOME little time since we received an invitation to attend a party of the teachers connected with the Sunday School of the 5th and 6th wards of this city, which was held in the 6th ward School house. It was gratifying to see so many assembled together connected with one school, in a part of the city that is not thickly populated, and interested in the education and welfare of the young. An excellent spirit pervaded the party and all enjoyed themselves exceedingly. From statistics read during the evening, we learned that the school had been organized some eighteen months, and numbered about 150 scholars, with twelve male and five female teachers, under the superintendency of Elder Samuel L. Evans. The course of instruction comprises reading in the Bible, Book of Mormon, Catechism &c., arithmetic and kindred branches, and music under Bro. J. Edwards, the tonic sol-fa system being used. There is an examination every Sunday in the principles of the gospel and other subjects, conducted

either by the Superintendent or Bishop Hickenlooper, who takes great interest in the school. It is indicative of much future good to see the Sunday Schools throughout the Territory increasing in usefulness and continually adding to the numbers on their rolls of attendance.

[For the Juvenile Instructor.]  
THE JEWS.

IN writing about the Jews mention will have to be made of the other sons of Jacob and their descendants, as well as Judah and his descendants, for their history is nearly the same for several hundred years.

Jacob was a man who feared God and kept His commandments. He had four wives, and Judah was his fourth son by his first wife, who was named Leah. Jacob's eleventh son was called Joseph, whose mother's name was Rachael. He was a good, virtuous boy, much beloved by his father, and the Lord gave him dreams showing him what he would become in the future. In his honesty of heart he told them to his brothers, and as these dreams seemed to declare that he would become greater than themselves, they were filled with envy and hatred against him. Some of them were for killing him, but Reuben, Jacob's oldest son, would not let them do so; and they sold him for a slave to some traveling merchants, who carried him away into another country, called Egypt, where he was again sold to an officer of the king of that country. This officer's name was Potiphar, and he had a wife who was a very wicked woman. She saw that Joseph was good-looking, and she sought to make him commit sin with her. But he would not defile himself before the Lord, and fled from her, upon which she accused him of having sought to do the very wicked deed which she had privately striven to have him commit. Her lie was believed, and he was thrown into a prison, where the Lord showed His approval of the good and virtuous conduct of Joseph by inspiring him to interpret the dreams of two others of the king's officers who were confined there with him. Afterwards, when the king himself had a dream which troubled him sorely, one of these officers recalled Joseph's interpretation of his dream to mind and told the king of it, who sent for Joseph, and had him brought out of the prison. He, being inspired by God, interpreted the king's dream, and told him that the Lord would bring seven years of exceeding plenty upon the land, followed by seven years of famine in which all the plenty would be forgotten; and gave the king wise counsel how to act to save the people. For this the King placed Joseph next himself, and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. The story of his life is exceedingly interesting, and is to be found in the Bible. It shows how the Lord protects and blesses those who are good.

During the time that Joseph was in Egypt, his father's family increased in numbers, and prospered till the seven years of famine came. After a time, when their provisions were nearly done, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy bread, and they had to buy it from Joseph, their own brother, who was now a great man, though they did not know him; and in so doing, the very dreams for which they had sold him into Egypt were fulfilled. At length he made himself known to his brethren, told them that God had sent him to Egypt before them to preserve his father's family on the earth, and bade them return home and bring his father, with their wives and children and all that belonged to them, down to Egypt, that they might be preserved through the great famine, five years of which was still to come. This they did; and thus by the direct providences of God was Jacob and his family led down to the land of Egypt, from which his descendants in after years had to be led forth through the Lord displaying His power in their behalf in a most miraculous manner.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)